

SHORT LINE

Sierra Division * Pacific Coast Region * National Model Railroad Association



The World's Greatest

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The Grounds were crawling with model railroaders, toy train enthusiasts, rail buffs, and curious onlookers. The Grounds, the new moniker for the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville, was the site for the 2018 International Rail Fair. According to Jim Dieckman, the paid attendance was 966 on Saturday Nov. 10, 312 on Sunday Nov. 11, and 106 families



Sunday Nov. 11, and 106 families over the two-day event. The numbers do not include children 12 and under.

Tickets went on sale at 9:00 AM Saturday, but the queue of ticket buyers started forming just after 8:00. By 9:45, the line of ticket holders stretched from the southern entrance gate to past the back side of Jones Hall and reports from many of the attendees indi-

The Line Started Forming Early cated the parking lot was full and the overflow lot was already in use. Apparently the Rail Fair publicity campaign was quite successful!

Jones Hall and Johnson Hall were filled to capacity with a wide variety of vendors along with several layout displays and two food venues. The Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Club, to whom The Grounds is home, was open open during the event and several *see ""Rail Fair" - page 7*



Fifteen Minutes Before the Gates Opened

January 2019

Sierra Division Callboard

PCR business or questions: **PCR** President Ed Merrin edmerrin@comcast.net (707) 542 3620

Director, Sierra Division Tom Van Horn tomvca@aol.com (209) 626 0352

Sierra Division business, questions, or to volunteer to give a clinic, for membership problems, Superintendent Chip Meriam chipmeriam@comcast.net (530) 899-2609

To volunteer your layout for a tour or "Timetable" entries: Chief Clerk Dave Fryman fryperson@hotmail.com (925) 360 1377

> Paymaster Al Rowe HOFUNAR@aol.com

SHORT LINE Editor Chip Meriam

chipmeriam@comcast.net (530) 899-2609 **Contest Chairperson**

Gary Ray gerber1926@gmail.com (530) 990-1276

Membership Chairperson Jim Collins (209) 566-0935

jimcol@harter.net

For Golden Spike or NMRA AP Certificate questions: **Achievement Program Dave Bayless** (530) 887-8880

> Webmaster Gus Campagna gus@campagna.com (707) 664-8466

SHORT LINE is published quarterly by the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Association. Material may be reprinted with permission.

Articles, photos, tips, or ideas are heartily encouraged and will be enthusiastically accepted! The preferred format would be in Rich Text Format (RTF), with photos as JPEGs, but we will accept any format (from a PC or Mac; MS Word, Simple Text, typed, or handwritten). Send it to your editor by regular mail to SHORT LINE, 2260 Cherry Glenn Ct., Chico, CA 95926 or by email to :

From the Superintendent

Next, Please.

Jim Collins first addressed our membership on this page in the February 2015 edition. His last official act as Sierra Division Superintendent was chairing the October 2018 meeting - completing two terms at the helm. We all owe Jim a hearty "thank you" for his tireless work arranging quarterly meets, meeting places, clinics, guest speakers and tours. It has been said that "There is no rest for the weary," and Jim is no exception. He continues to work on behalf of the Sierra Division as co-chairman of the 2019 PCR Convention Committee charged with plan-



Past Superintendent, Jim Collins

ning and managing the upcoming convention, Diamond Rails Forever.

OUTHERN PACIFIC LINI That brings us to the next Division Superintendent which just happens to be me. As most of you know. I have been the editor of the *Short Line* for the past four years and I served as the Chief Clerk for the last two. I will continue to edit this publication, I hope for years to come, but we do have a new Chief Clerk, Dave Fryman. Dave has recently come to the Sierra Division after being a member of the Coast Division. Many of you already know Dave from his recent work as the Volunteer Coordinator for the 2018 International Rail Fair.

Incoming Superintendent, Chip Meriam

As noted above, Dave Fryman comes to us from the Coast Division where he was a member during the past year. Recently, Dave served as the Coast Division Quartermaster, charged with maintaining and securing supplies and equipment. Dave wants all of us to know that the oil (visible in the photo at right) keeps his joints from creaking.

Two positions that have not changed are the Paymaster and the Director. Al Rowe will continue to handle the purse strings and balance the



Chief Clerk, Dave Fryman

books for the next two years, and Tom Van Horn will continue to represent our division at Pacific Coast Region Board Meetings.

Looking forward to the coming months, February 9 we have our annual sojourn to the Sacramento Model Railroad Historical Society for an Operating Session on their Sierra Central Railroad. The OP session will begin at 9:30 AM and wrap up by noon. Thereafter, a barbecue dog & burger lunch will be available for \$5.00.



see "Super" - page 3





The Keddie Wye on the Sierra Central (photo: Jim Collins)



Steve Harvath & Jim Smyrak at SMRHS (photo: Mike Roque - SMRHS Webmaster)



The Zephyr Heading Up The Feather River Canyon On The Sierra Central (photo: Chip Meriam)

You can visit the SMRHS website at http://www.smrhs.com/ or, better yet, you can visit SMRHS in person by coming to the division meet on February 9. *(see map on page 7)*

In the afternoon we will convene at the First Christian Church for our Contests, Show & Tell, Business Meeting, and Door Prize Drawings. As a special bonus, a clinic will be offered by Tony

Thompson of Signature Press. Tony will be speaking about freight traffic and waybills. (see Tpny's bio on page 5)

The first week of May is the 2019 Pacific Coast Region Convention, Diamond Rails Forever. This is a collaborative convention with the Feather River Rail Society. The official activities begin on Thursday, May 2, at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. Be sure to see details elsewhere in this issue. Note: There will be no division meet in May as we are encouraging everyone to attend the convention.

And now, a few last words from Jim Collins:

Just wish to say a few words in farewell as I turn over the Superintendent responsibilities and fun to Chip Meriam. It has been fun overall but I could not have done the job without the excellent assistance of many folks. In particular, Chip Meriam, Al Rowe, Gary Ray, and Tom Van Horn have all been very helpful and supportive with excellent ideas and observations and help setting things up and taking them down at the various meets and functions. All the other members who attend are also all wonderful folks but are too many to list. In fact, as many others have noted, it's the friendship and interaction with all members that make the job easier and what makes model railroading so attractive to many of us.

I am far from perfect and, being a retired Navy Master Chief, I can be very outspoken sometimes, so if I have said or done anything to offend anyone, please accept my sincere apology. I'm just another cranky old vet sometimes. God bless you all and I look forward to seeing everyone and enjoying our hobby together... especially at the 2019 PCR Convention in Sacramento next year (hint, hint).

"Super" from page 3

Although this is technically the January-February-March 2019 edition of the *Short Line*, you should be reading this during the 2018 Christmas Holiday time. In that spirit, much has been written about the indelible connection of Christmas and model railroads. In fact, I shared words along this same theme in the "From the Editor" column in the January 2017 issue. I believe what I wrote then remains true - especially the fellowship and sharing that accompany both Christmas and our hobby.

The PCR *Branch Line* should be available on the PCR website by month's end. I invite you to read the "Contest Report" by Giuseppe Aymar. Giuseppe poignantly makes the connection between Christmas, sharing, and fellowship in his invitation to all of us to join him in the contest room.

So with those hints, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Those of us in the northern end of the Sierra Division have been profoundly affected by the Camp Fire which erupted into a hellish nightmare in the early morning hours of November 8. We have all been touched in some way, but none more severely than our members from the Paradise and Magalia area.:

Richard Barton Dave Cordell Robert Johnson Klaus Keil Norm Morris Gary Ray Phill Simpson

We have heard from Norm Morris who noted that he and his wife will be relocating to Chico. Norm also reports that Dave Cordell has gone to Southern California and will not be returning.

We have also heard from Gary Ray, who is temporarily housed in Redding. Gary tells us that Phill Simpson is with family in Lincoln and that Klaus Keil is in Chico. Gary also added that two of his operating crew, Dave Davis and Daniel Shelstra also lost their homes. Gary was more fortunate. His home and railroad are still standing as the fire did not reach the uppermost parts of Magalia. However, there is extensive smoke damage that must be abated before he can return.

Although the historic Magalia depot was lost to the fire, the Paradise depot and museum was not.



Miraculously Spared

Please join the staff of the *Short Line* as we extend our thoughts, our prayers, and our hopes for a strong recovery to all of those who suffered tremendous loss from the Camp Fire.



Anthony W. Thompson is a native Californian, and currently resides in Berkeley, CA. He earned a Ph.D. in metallurgy from M.I.T. in 1970, worked as a faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh and at the University of California, Berkeley, and is now retired. However, he continues to work for Signature Press. A <u>resume</u> and <u>publication list</u> for his technical career are available.

He has long had an interest in the history of the Southern Pacific Railroad and in one of its subsidiaries, Pacific Fruit Express. He writes the modeling column in the SP Historical and Technical Society's magazine, *Trainline*, and has published a number of magazine articles about both Southern Pacific and Pacific Fruit Express. He was also the principal author of the 1992 book, *Pacific Fruit Express*, now re-issued in a second edition, and of the 1999 book, *Southern Pacific's Coast Line Pictorial*, co-authored with John R. Signor.

Tony grew up along the rails of the Southern Pacific, and early exposure to that railroad was among his formative experiences. He has long been a model railroader in HO scale, and has built a layout depicting the SP main line south of San Luis Obispo, CA, in 1953. He currently produces a <u>blog</u> about the layout and about SP modeling. He is an experienced speaker on railroad historical topics and has presented numerous talks on these subjects. He is active in historical societies, and served more than ten years on the national Board of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. He has been on the Board of Directors of the Southern Pacific Historical & Technical Society since 1991, and has also served five years as President of the Society.

Among Dr. Thompson's recent projects is a complete history of Southern Pacific freight cars. To provide adequate coverage of the major car classes between roughly 1865 and 1965, multiple volumes were required. The series has been completed, with the series title *Southern Pacific Freight Cars*. All five volumes are in print: <u>Volume 1: Gondolas and Stock Cars</u>, <u>Volume 2: Cabooses</u>, <u>Volume 3: Automobile Cars and Flat Cars</u>, and <u>Volume 4: Box Cars</u>, with the newest and final volume, <u>Volume 5: Hoppers, Covered Hoppers and Tank</u> <u>Cars</u>, now available.

From the Editor

At the Risk of Being Redundant, here I am again - this time. I have already addressed you in my first "From The Superintendent" column and I will continue to do so in future issues. As such, I will discontinue the practice of writing <u>this</u> column for every issue but, rather, include this column only when there is a message specific to the content, production, or publishing of the *Short Line*. Furthermore, too many words from me can make this publication sound too much like one voice and might very well become, well, redundant.

To that end, I will offer another plea for contributions:

I'm always delighted to edit and publish material from division members. I've had several how-to articles,



three or four layout visits, and some amusing stories. These feature pieces are always welcome and I can always use more. Also, there are a couple "departments" that might be the perfect forum for your ideas. As a reminder, here they are:

The focus of this column is the miniscule little projects or detail items that can be accomplished or installed while a natural pause occurs. Just send me a simple description of something you add to your layout as a detail item; some-

thing you routinely adjust, repair, or clean; something you prepare for the next project; or something else. BUT, it has to be something easily completed in less than, say, 30 minutes.

Tips of the Trade Hobby

The *Short Line* has run several useful tips from our own Sierra Division members and a few from elsewhere. These are all fine ideas that just might aid you in your modeling efforts and spawn your creativity. I think his could be a great quarterly column—and I hope you do too. As always, however, the tips need to come from somewhere. So please come forward with any cleverness you may have been concealing. There are few greater compliments than seeing someone use and benefit from your ideas.

I can work with whatever you send me. So please, don't be shy.

chipmeriam@comcast.net or Chip Meriam – 2260 Cherry Glenn Court – Chico, CA 95926

"Rail Fair" from page 1



Jim Collins, Dave Fryman, and Al Rowe Preparing For The First Shift In The Ticket Booth



Vendors And Bargain Seekers in Johnson Hall



A "Rubber Tired Train" Roams The Grounds

displays occupied the grassy areas between the two exhibit halls. Of course, we had the usual NMRA information table and the Timesaver display. Sierra Division members also had the primary responsibility for the entrance gate and ticket sales.

All in all it was a successful event, despite competing with Veteran's Day events and opening day of pheasant season. And for many of us, it was a welcome respite from the Camp Fire.



Sacramento Valley Garden Railway A Delight For Young And Old Alike



The "Bug" A Real Show Stopper

"Rail Fair" from page 7



TO THE SMALL

Robert Pethoud Demonstrates His Fall Creek Branch Switching Layout

FROM THE LARGE

Sacramento Valley Modular Railroaders Were Out In Force With A Huge Modular Display





TO THE TINY

Judy Champlin, Mike O'Dorney, and Doug Smith With The Time Saver



January 2019







On the Way To The Fall Meet In Modesto we had the opportunity to visit the Morada Belt, a fine HO scale model railroad. Although freelanced, the Morada Belt resembles the Southern Pacific in the western states and depicts a bridge route for Southern Pacific, Western Pacific, Santa Fe, and Union Pacific.

Following are several photos taken during our visit. All photos are by Michael Eldridge with captions provided by Dave Stanley, the proud owner of the Morada Belt.



Looking east from Youngstown on the Westside Branch towards Sugarfield. The Youngstown stock spur and Valley Growers mill are evident as is the Youngstown team track area in the right foreground.



Acampo station, a Suydam structure built by Dale Fowlar. The PJ Goehring shed was scratch built by me; the real shed was located at Victor, CA, just east of Lodi on SP's nowabandoned Kentucky House Branch.

"Field Trip" from page 11



This is the east end of the Junction City interchange yard. King Midas Flour and Tri-State Milling are two of the seven industries located here.







Larsen Quarry at Eagles Nest. Jerry Larsen (retired president of American Transit Mix) built the plant, modified from a Walthers' Glacier Gravel kit. The rock work is mine using foam board overlaid with plaster rock molds.

Ridgewood station at the west end of the railroad, home of the Ridgewood Timber Co. mill. Pat Davis built the mill and adjacent log pond scene. Acampo is in the distant right. John Signor painted the backdrop.

View from the west end of Morada yard. This is the main classification yard on the Morada Belt.

Editor's Note:

Please be sure to see the story on the Morada Belt in the October 2018 issue of the **Short Line**. Our thanks to Dave Stanley for hosting us on Ocotber 27 and for graciously providing the narrative to accompany the fine photo work from Michael Eldridge, to whom we also extend our gratitude.



Pacific Coast Region Diamond Jubilee

Chip Meriam, Co-Chairman, Diamond Rails Forever 2019





The 2019 PCR Convention Committee held an "on site" meeting November 3 at the McClellan Conference Center, location of the 2019 "Diamond Rails Forever" convention coming up during the first week of May 2019. We also visited the Lion's Gate Hotel where most of the convention attendees will be lodging. The Lion's Gate will be the venue for the Saturday night banquet and the PCR breakfast and business meeting on Sunday morning.

We are happy to report that the convention facility is easy to reach with access from Interstate 80, there is more than ample parking available, and the hotel, although off site, is conveniently located within walking distance. Our visit to the hotel included lunch and we found the food to be very good. We extend our thanks to Scott McAllister for arranging for the convention site and hotel.

We have Brian Witt working on Prototype Tours, Scott Inman working on Layout Tours and Operating Sessions, Gary Ray working on SIG Activities and Operating Sessions, Chip Meriam coordinating the Contests, and Dave Bayless lining up the Clinics. My co-chairman, Jim Collins, is busy updating the Diamond Rail Forever website as details fall into place. Jim's last update was December 11. Jim has updated an extensive list of clinic offerings, confirmed our keynote

speaker, and published the banquet menu selections. Of major note: The deadline for Early Bird regis-

tration has been extended to March 15, 2019. Take advantage of this opportunity to save \$30 on the registration package. (see registration form on page 21)

Hotel reservations can be made beginning January 15. Special rates apply for convention attendees so be sure to book your room early.

Be sure to check the website often for further updates at:

http://pcrnmra.org/conv2019/



Tips of the Trade Hobby



Every So Often I run across an item I can highly recommend to fellow modelers. This time (no pun intended) it happens to be a fast clock system. If you're using, or planning to use a fast clock in your operations, check out GML Enterprises. I offer this suggestion for a simple reason -**Excellent Service.** Let me illustrate:



Back in March of 2014 I purchased and installed a single fast clock system from GML Enterprises. GML offers several clocks as well as multiple clock configurations, but since I generally operate a small railroad alone a single clock is quite sufficient. For over four years I rarely turned this clock on, but recently I decided it was, well, *time* to put it into use. I quickly discovered that the clock no longer worked. An email to GML was promptly answered with a short list of trouble shooting items. After I ran through the various suggestions, I reported back that the clock still would not run. I was then invited to send the clock in for inspection and possible repair - which I did. In fewer than three weeks the clock came back fixed at a very nominal charge, despite it having gone out of warranty over two years ago!

I was extremely impressed with the response, the service, and the result.

Check out their website. You'll see they offer clocks, throttles, and components.

http://www.thegmlenterprises.com/

- - - SPECIAL NOTICE - - - -

This from our friends in the Daylight Division:

The Golden Empire and Historical Society, of Bakersfield, has a new web site. The new web site is now located at <u>www.gehams.club</u>.

We welcome you to please take a look and render any suggestions, comments, constructive criticism, or any other advice, as to any improvements or items you'd like to see on the web site. You may send any suggestions or comments to GEHAMS Web Master, Mike O'Brien, at <u>obsmobile2002@yahoo.com</u>

It is a still a work in progress, so please check back on a regular basis for any updates. Thank you.

Doug Wagner Bakersfield, California





Wow! Did you know there's a <u>new</u> NMRA Member Benefit?

It's the NMRA Partner Program!

Model railroad manufacturers are partnering with the NMRA to offer discounts to NMRA members.

Current members log in to <u>www.nmra.org</u>. At the Members Menu, go to the NMRA Partnership Page to see who's on the list, discounts offered, and how to order. New Partners are coming on board every month, so check back often.

If you're not yet a member, here's another <u>great reason</u> to join and get <u>more</u> fun from your hobby with a membership in the world's largest model railroad organization.

www.nmra.org



October Meet - Modesto, CA

Story by Chip Meriam, Photos by as noted







Scene From Dave Stanley's Morada Belt - Jim Collins



Scene From Dave Stanley's Morada Belt - Jim Collins

The Sierra Division's final 2018 meet took place October 27 in Modesto with a stop in Morada during the morning (see story on page 10). Following a visit to Dave Stanley's Morada Belt Railroad, the meet reconvened at the Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Modesto at 1:30 PM.

During the business meeting a new slate of officers was formalized with Chip Meriam taking over as Superintendent, Dave Fryman stepping into the Chief Clerk position, Al Rower remaining as Treasurer, and Tom Van Horn remaining as Director.

The meet featured an AnyRail clinic by Jim Collins, a photo and model contest, and a show and tell session.

See pages 18and 19 for contest winners and show & tell photos.



Module plan using AnyRail proposed for use with the Sacramento Modular Railroad—Jim Collins

October Meet (ct'd.)

CONTEST WINNERS



"Continued on Page 19

October Meet (ct'd.)

CONTEST WINNERS



SHOW AND TELL



Feed mill under construction by Gary Ray.



Jim Collins has built a convincing structure from heavy duty printed paper by Clever Modles.



Gary Ray is building a general store using a Campbell #435 Produce Warehouse kit.





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Diamond Bails Forever PCR MRA Just Convention Please Print	PCR/FRRS Diamond Rails Forever 2019 PCR/FRRS Convention McClellan Conference Center 5411 Luce Ave McClellan Park, CA May 2 – 5, 2019 Registration Form			RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO: Diamond Rails Forever 2019 c/o Gus Campagna 1915 William Drive Penngrove, CA 94951-9524 E-mail: drf2019registrar@pcrnmra.org Website: www.pcrnmra.org/conv2019 Visit the website to pay with PayPal or credit card					
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NMRA/FRRS Early Bird Regist. Pkg. (reg, banquet, & brkfast) (until 3/15/19; \$				155 after)			125.00		
NMRA & FRRS Registration ONLY						-	80.00		
First Timer Pkg. (PCR Members who have not registered for the past 5 conventions)						-	115.00		
Non-Rail or Spouse Registration (includes non-rail lunch, no banquet or breakfast)							40.00		
NMRA & FRRS Banquet only						50.00			
PCR Breakfast only					-	25.00			
Youth Registration (12-18 years or student)						70.00			
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